

I claim:

1. A control system for a printing machine having at least one machine element, the control system comprising:
  - a central data processing unit;
- 5 an electronic machine controller connected to and controlled by said central data processing unit;
  - at least one controlled machine element of the printing machine connected to and controlled by said electronic machine controller;
- 10 a data carrier, an input device, and an output device connected to said central data processing unit;
  - 15 said data carrier storing at least one data file for playing back instructions associated with at least one machine element, one machine function, and/or a functional or setting error; and
- wherein the at least one data file is activatable via said central unit such that, upon activation of the file, the instructions are played back via the output device.
- 20 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said data carrier is a memory device of said central data processing unit.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the instructions are selected from the group consisting of optical and acoustical help instructions, and said output device is  
5 selected from the group consisting of optical and acoustical output devices.

4. The printing machine of claim 1, wherein the data file is selected from the group consisting of audio, video, HTML, and  
10 image files.

5. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said output device is selected from the group consisting of screen display and speaker.

15 6. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein the input device is selected from the group consisting of touch-sensitive and light-sensitive input devices.

20 7. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein the input device is selected from the group consisting of a screen, a film, a keyboard, and a sensor.

25 8. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein the files are activatable before, during, and after a setting of the machine controller.

9. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said central unit is programmed to activate a particular associated file in the event of a functional or setting error of a  
5 machine element or a machine function.

10. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said central unit is programmed to automatically activate a particular associated file in the event of a functional or  
10 setting error of a machine element or a machine function.

11. The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said central unit is configured to recognize errors in the machine controller, to detect an error of a machine element, and to  
15 activate the particular associated file.

12. The printing machine according to claim 11, wherein said central unit is configured to detect functional errors and setting errors of the machine element.

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13. A method of controlling a printing machine having an electronic machine controller and at least one machine element connected to the controller, the method which comprises:

inputting configuration data and adjusting a setting of the  
25 machine controller;

checking the setting for errors with a central unit, and determining, with an error recognition procedure, whether an erroneous setting is present and associating the setting to a given machine function or machine element; and

5 if an erroneous setting is present, activating a file associated with the machine function or the machine element by the central unit.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the error  
10 recognition procedure is a software procedure in the central unit.

15. The method according to claim 13, which comprises, when an erroneous setting is detected, automatically forwarding a  
15 signal to the central unit, and thereupon activating, with the central unit, the file associated with the applicable machine function or machine element.

16. The method according to claim 13, which comprises  
20 forwarding with input means upon actuation a signal to the central unit; thereupon checking with the central unit a machine status for active machine functions or machine elements, and activating a respectively file associated therewith.

17. The method according to claim 13, which comprises effecting an input under menu control via an input device.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the input  
5 device is a screen display.